(800) 332-1617

Exhibit No.

Modern Machinery Co., Inc. Date (406) 523-1100

Missoula, Montana USA 59808

101 International Way

March 28, 2011

Senator Carol Williams Minority Leader P O Box 200500 Helena, MT 59620

Dear Mrs. Williams,

My name is Bill Crandall and I support house bill 439 and the MSU Northern building. I am the Vice President of Modern Machinery, a Dennis Washington Company out of Missoula. We sell, rent, and repair construction, mining, and logging equipment and have 11 branches in the Northwest (including 3 in Montana) and 2 in Russia.

I am on Northern's diesel advisory board as an industry representative. Collectively we have worked hard over the last 4 years to attract Montana high school students, and sign articulation agreements with 2 year programs in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Canada, and the Dakotas. We visit and recruit 2 year graduates from those schools to complete their education at Northern. These efforts have paid off with enrollment increases - 63 transfer students have enrolled at Northern in the diesel program over the last 4 years.

I am behind these efforts because I believe in the program and have seen firsthand the quality of their graduates. Companies like ours need both 2 year and 4 year graduates. For this reason we help students at Northern with scholarships, tuition assistance, internships, and loan the college new, state of the art machines for use in class. We can get high school and transfer students to come take a look at Northern, but we need better facilities to make them want to enroll.

The pace of change in the technology found in our equipment is accelerating. Many years ago a diesel mechanic could learn the trade "on the job". This won't work anymore. Electronics, hydraulics, GPS systems, trouble shooting systems, engine technology and the associated Tier IV emission requirements, etc. are changing the educational needs for the people we hire. This high tech equipment requires high tech education which needs high tech facilities to foster this education.

MSU Northern has an impressive facility for the diesel program with Hensler Auditorium and its associated shop area. But they need more! Prospective students will start to go other places if we don't keep pace. Northern has been successful in getting prospective students to visit their campus but they need to be impressed so they want to come back!

William G Crandall

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helping for the Cate and expecially
MSU-Northern.